Difference in Production Rate of Irrigated and Non-Irrigated Land

†4315. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a difference in the rate of production on irrigated and non-irrigated land in the country;

(b) if so, the average rate of production on the irrigated land; and

(c) the assessemnt regarding the average rate of production on the non-irrigated land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c) The Government does not maintain statistics at all-India level regarding average rate of production of different crops in irrigated and unirrigated land separately.

Bringing Agro-Products under Protected Categories

4316. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have brought certain agricultural products under the protected categories, in order to protect the farmers' interests in the wake of enforcement of WTO agreement conditionalities;

(b) if so, the names of such products; and

(c) the other details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) There is no concept of 'protected category' under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. However, the Government is closely monitoring the imports of agricultural commodities and when the situation warrants, takes WTO compatible measures to safeguard the interests of farmers. These measures include suitable calibration of the applied rates within the bound rates and initiation of trade remedial measures such as anti-dumping action, imposition of countervailing action or safeguard action under specific circumstances provided under the Agreement. Sensitive items which

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

are of importance to the public, have been identified. The imports of these items are constantly monitored by a Standing Group headed by the Commerce Secretary which suggests appropriate measures to regulate the imports. Further, imports of agricultural products like wheat, rice, maize, other coarse cereals, copra and coconut oil are allowed only through the State Trading Enterprises.

Death Compensation for Gujarat Earthquake

†4317. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that compensation is not being paid for the persons who died of panic during earthquake in Gujarat, though their children have become orphans;

(b) if so, whether Government would issue directions to the State Government to locate and compensate them; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) There is provision for payment of ex-gratia amounts to the families of the persons who die as a result of natural calamities. Such payments are not admissible where death is caused by other reasons. The ultimate judgement lies with the State Government concerned and the Central Government is not authorized under the scheme of assistance in natural calamities to issue directions in the matter.

Feed Stock costs in Fertilizer Industry

4318. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the feed stock costs make fertilizer industry uncompetitive with other countries; and

(b) if so, what steps the Ministry has taken to help the industry so that it becomes competitive in the international market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) While the Indian Fertilizer Industry has achieved internationally competitive energy

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.